**Development to boost tourism in Uttaranchal**

†4070. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan to boost tourism in the State of Uttaranchal has been sent by the State Government of Uttaranchal to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the places of natural beauty in the Almora district of Uttaranchal that are proposed to be developed as tourist resorts;

(c) whether Central Government have received some application for developing some new places as tourist resorts; and

(d) if so, names of the places and by when they will be developed as tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administration. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

A project for development of Nainital-Almora-Ranikhet Tourist Circuit which includes Katarmal, Viveknanda Smarak, Chittai Temple Sitlakhet, House of National Poet Sumitra Nandan Pant (Kausani) and TRH Campus (Kausani) in Almora District has been sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 697.51 lakh during 2005-06.

(c) and (d) The following projects have been prioritised in consultation with the State Government for grant of Central financial assistance during the year 2006-07:—

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|---|---|
| **Destination:** | 1. Yamunotri |
| | 2. Tehri |
| **Circuit** | 1. Rishikesh-Haridwar |
| | 2. Bindsar-Baijnath-Manesar |

No project proposal has been received from the State Government so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.